

Man from the Morgue

"THE WHISTLER"

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1952

7:30 -8:00 PM PST

1 ANNCR: And now stay tuned for the program that has rated tops
2 in popularity for a longer period of time...than any
3 other West Coast Program in radio history...
4 The Signal Oil Program...The Whistler.
5 MUSIC: (WHISTLE)
6 MUSIC: (TYMP BEATS)
7 ANNCR: (ON ECHO) ...Signal....the famous go-farther gasoline.
8 invites you to sit back and enjoy another strange story
9 by "The Whistler".
10 MUSIC: WHISTLE ON FULL ECHO...DIMINISH ECHO TO CLEAR AND SEGUE
11 TO:
12 ORCHESTRA UP TO CLIMAX
13 WHISTLER: I am the Whistler...(SNEAK ORCHESTRA THEME AND CARRY
14 UNDER FOLLOWING)...And I know many things...for I walk
15 by night. I know many strange tales hidden in the
16 hearts of men and women who have stepped into the
17 shadows...Yes, I know the nameless terrors of which
18 they dare not speak.
19 MUSIC: THEME AND TYMP BRIDGE
20 ANNCR: And now for the Signal Oil Company, the Whistler's
21 strange story "MAN FROM THE MORGUE"

1 WHISTLER: Ross Merrick leaned across his desk, flipped the
2 switch to the intercom and summoned his secretary. He
3 sat back, relaxing for a moment as he waited for her.
4 He was fortyish, tall...distinguished-looking...ideal
5 in appearance for his position of publisher-editor of
6 the little town of Glenview's only newspaper. He
7 seemed calm and self-assured as his secretary entered..
8 approached his desk...

9 SOUND: ANTICIPATE DOOR OPENING..STEPS IN TO STOP

10 SEC 'TY: Yes, Mr. Merrick - ?

11 ROSS: I want to give you a few changes in today's editorial,
12 Miss Prentiss.

13 SEC 'TY: Yes, sir.

14 WHISTLER: She sits down across the desk from you, doesn't she,
15 Ross...the pencil poised, waiting...and you rise,
16 thoughtfully, move a few steps to the window in back
17 of your desk...you glance out, casually, react startled
18 to something, someone that you see on the street
19 below...

20 ROSS: (LOW GASP) Herb Carter!!

21 SEC 'TY: (OFF) What was that, sir?

22 ROSS: (LOW, UNHEARING) It's impossible!

23 SEC 'TY: (LOUDER) I can't hear you, Mr. Merrick.

24 SOUND: MERRICK'S STEPS ACROSS ROOM

25

DH

1 SEC 'TY: (STARTLED) Mr. Merrick - ? Mr. Merrick, what is it --
2 where are you going - ?!
3 SOUND: DOOR CLOSSES ABRUPTLY
4 SEC 'TY: (OFF, WITH SOUND) Mr. Merrick?!
5 MUSIC: (HITS IN, UNDER)
6 WHISTLER: It's a terrible shock, isn't it, Ross..the sight of
7 Herb Carter...and you hurry through the office,
8 bumping people, rushing down the stairs and out into
9 the street...and then --
10 MUSIC: (FLARE OUT)
11 ROSS: (STUNNED) Gone -- he's .. gone!
12 MUSIC: (UP TO BRIDGE, OUT INTO)
13 SOUND: HURRYING FOOTSTEPS, DOOR BURSTS OPEN
14 ((ROSS: (SHOUTING) Marian!
15 SOUND: FEW MORE FOOTSTEPS
16 ROSS: (SHOUTS AGAIN) Marian!
17 SOUND: FEW STEPS, ANOTHER DOOR OPENED
18 ROSS: Marian - why didn't you answer -?))
19 MARIAN: (OFF; CALM) Ross... darling. You're home early.
20 How nice.
21 SOUND: HIS STEPS ACROSS ROOM
22 ROSS: (DISTRAUGHT; ANNOYED) It isn't nice - it isn't nice
23 at all! Marian - he's back - he's found us -- Herb
24 Carter!
25 MARIAN: (CALM) What? But that's not possible, dear - Herb
26 Carter is dead.

1 ROSS: ((Marian, I'm trying to tell you - I saw him - not
2 twenty minutes ago - I saw Herb Carter. He was in front
3 of my office - leaning against a lampost - I got a
4 very clear look at him.

5 MARIAN: (RISING) Ross, you're upset - you've been working too
6 hard lately.))

7 ROSS: I tell you I saw the man - he's back - and you know
8 what it means!!

9 MARIAN: I know what it could mean, darling - if the one man
10 who knows you murdered my husband --

11 ROSS: (JUMPS) Marian! We agreed you'd never use those
12 words again!

13 MARIAN: Sorry. Really, Ross - you'd better have a drink -
14 you're terribly on edge..

15 ROSS: And you're not, I suppose?

16 MARIAN: (MOVING OFF) Two ice cubes, dear - or one?

17 ROSS: (GOING AFTER HER) Marian, if it was Herb Carter - if
18 he wasn't killed in that bombing raid eight years ago --

19 SOUND: ((SHE MIXES DRINKS THROUGH:

20 MARIAN: I know - it's the same old story - You think I'd relish
21 paying Mr. Carter for his silence -- wasn't I as happy
22 and relieved as you when he died --

23 ROSS: We only got a report of his death. I know now that we
24 jumped to a conclusion.))

25 MARIAN: Here's your drink, darling. You can use one.

26 ROSS: I guess we both can.

1 MARIAN: Herb Carter is quite dead. Otherwise he'd have been
2 after us long before this.
3 ROSS: How - ? Where would he look for us? It could have
4 taken him all this time - after all, he'd have been
5 looking for a man named John Sloan.
6 MARIAN: Dear, Johnny...it was such a shame to change your
7 name...Ross Merrick has always seemed so...well,
8 stuffy. (SIPS DRINK) Ummm..delicious..
9 ROSS: You're not even listening to me.
10 MARIAN: Yes, I am. Let's sit down, dear. (SHE SITS) Come on.
11 ROSS: (((RELUCTANT, CALMING) You're a cool one, Marian, I
12 don't know --
13 MARIAN: Of course, you don't. Because you let your mind play
14 tricks sometimes...You've too much of an imagination,
15 darling.))
16 ROSS: You honestly think ---
17 MARIAN: I don't just think - I know that everything is just as
18 it was. We're going to do all right...we have done
19 all right, haven't we - with my late husband's money -
20 ROSS: Never mind that..
21 MARIAN: It's been useful, hasn't it - just as we planned - Let
22 me see - do we own two or three newspapers?
23 ROSS: ((Marian, they're small town papers -
24 MARIAN: But profitable, And we enjoy this warm, small-town
25 life...or are you getting tired of it, darling - and
26 of me?))
27 ROSS: Marian --
28 MARIAN: Kiss me...

1 ROSS: Darling, I -- (PAUSE FOR KISS)
2 MARIAN: Better?
3 ROSS: Yes..(SIGHS) I don't know..maybe I have been letting
4 my mind run wild...I don't know - I just thought today
5 that - (SHRUGS) You're probably right. (RISING)
6 Anyway, I'm going to forget it..
7 MARIAN: ((There's nothing to forget. We'd have heard from him
8 long before this -- the past is dead, too, darling -
9 MUSIC and there's a good life..a very good life ahead of us.))
10 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER)
11 WHISTLER: You tell yourself that she's right, don't you, Ross...
12 ((but your sleep is disturbed that night...and the next
13 day at the office you expect the phone to ring and
14 hear Herb Carter's voice at the other end of the wire..
15 but it doesn't happen...not the next day...or the
16 next...)) and you become more and more certain that you
17 were imagining things, that the man on the street
18 corner was not Carter..that he's still dead, as once
19 reported...and that you're safe...and then one evening
20 when you're working late at the office...
21 SOUND: ANTICIPATE PHONE RINGING...(REPEATS) RECEIVER UP
22 ROSS: Hello?
23 CARTER: (FILTER) Mr. Merrick -?
24 ROSS: Yes - who is this?
25 CARTER: ((An old friend, Mr. Merrick.
26 ROSS: (ON GUARD; NERVOUS) Oh? But I don't --))

1 CARTER: You don't recognize my voice.
2 ROSS: No..
3 CARTER: Perhaps if I called you...Johnny Sloan.
4 ROSS: (GASPS) Carter!
5 CARTER: Carter - yes. Like to see you, Johnny...
6 ROSS: Of course. I - uh - can't make it tonight - awfully
7 busy - However, if ---
8 CARTER: I'd like to see you, Johnny - I'd like to see you
9 tonight.
10 ROSS: But ---
11 CARTER: Where shall we make it, Johnny?
12 ROSS: Uh - I - - (STOPS, GIVES UP) All right - my house.
13 Eight-Eleven Elm Street.
14 CARTER: Eight-Eleven Elm - - Meet you there in half an hour.
15 ROSS: Half an hour. Yes...
16 CARTER: Be good to see you again - after all this time - My -
17 eight years -- It's like (LITTLE CHUCKLE) almost like
18 coming back from the dead...isn't it, Johnny.
19 MUSIC: (CURTAIN)

OPENING COMMERCIAL

1 ANJICR: (Singing to self: tune of "The Old Gray Mare") Oh the
2 poor old car - she ain't what she used to be - (spoken
3 reflectively) - ain't what she used to be! (PAUSE -
4 then normal speaking voice) If you're one of the many
5 drivers who is singing that lament about his car these
6 days - has it ever occurred to you: Maybe it's not
7 your car - but what you're feedin'it? For instance:
8 If the starting isn't as prompt as it used to be - just
9 try some Signal Ethyl - the premium grade of Signal's
10 famous go-farther gasoline. See if your motor doesn't
11 spring to life the instant you touch the starter.
12 (PAUSE) If the pickup isn't what it used to be - just
13 try Signal Ethyl. See if your car doesn't display new
14 pep that makes you proud. And if you're not zooming
15 up the hills as you used to - just try "you know what".
16 See if Signal Ethyl doesn't put back power that sends
17 you soaring smoothly over the summit in high. For
18 after all - Signal Ethyl is scientifically engineered
19 to bring out the best in any car - of any age.
20 (CHUCKLING) Maybe it won't quite turn a "Vintage
21 model" into a new car. But this much is certain: The
22 next best thing to a spankin' new car - is your car -
23 powered with Signal Ethyl.
24

1 WHISTLER: Well, Ross...you were right, weren't you...after all
2 this time...all this freedom..the man who can destroy
3 it all for you has turned up...Herb Carter, the man
4 you believed dead...he's back, isn't he, Ross...You
5 reach for the phone to call your wife, Marian, remember
6 suddenly that she's away at the country club with
7 friends. You'll have to meet Carter alone, won't you..
8 keep the appointment at your house in half an hour.
9 For a moment you consider running, leaving town...but
10 it's no use...if he's found you after all this time...
11 and you with another name...You tell yourself there's
12 only one thing to do and you leave the office, hurry
13 the short distance to your home to wait for him....
14 But he's late arriving, isn't he and your tension
15 mounts until, finally, you hear the doorbell...
16 SOUND: ANTICIPATE DOOR BELL..REPEATS..QUICK STEPS WITH ROSS
17 AND THEN DOOR OPENED..DOORBELL CONTINUING THROUGH
18 ROSS: (SHAKING) Carter, don't lean on the bell - want to
19 wake the neighbors?
20 CARTER: (CHUCKLES) (A LITTLE HIGH) ...Wake the neighbors...
21 with the doorbell? That's a good one, Johnny...!
22 ROSS: And stop calling me, Johnny! Come on in...((I don't
23 know - maybe we shouldn't have met here.
24 CARTER: (ENTERING) What's the matter, Johnny - a little
25 upset?

1 ROSS: I said c'mon in!
2 CARTER: Sure.
3 SOUND: DOOR CLOSED...THEIR STEPS UNDER
4 ROSS: In here - we'll talk in the den.
5 CARTER: Anywhere you say, pal - Just so we get right to the
6 point.
7 ROSS: Which is?
8 CARTER: (CHUCKLES) Dough, Johnny...why else do you think I've
9 uh - had a few..been celebrating.
10 ROSS: You mind telling me how you found me?
11 CARTER: Not at all...happy to...((shows I'm still a good
12 newspaper man..regular hawk...You see, when I got back
13 to the States and found that my old buddy, Johnny Sloan
14 had dropped out of sight...well, I had to do some
15 thinking.
16 ROSS: I'll bet...
17 CARTER: So I checked on Marian - found she'd left, too.))
18 (CHUCKLES) You both were so sure I was killed in that
19 raid over there...
20 ROSS: We read the report.
21 CARTER: You thought you were safe. That dead men tell no tales
22 Well mistakes were sometimes made, Johnny - any newsman
23 will tell you that - lots of mistakes. (CHUCKLES)
24 ROSS: (TENSE; ANNOYED) You were telling me how - -

1 CARTER: How I found you - yes...Got myself assigned to the
2 newspaper morgue back in the old home town, Johnny -
3 all the story files at my disposal - lots of different
4 papers -- and finally --
5 ROSS: You didn't see me in any paper - I've been careful --
6 CARTER: You have, yes ... but not Marian -- she slipped up,
7 Johnny...maybe just once - but her picture, just two
8 weeks ago, in a society section as "Mrs. Ross Merrick".
9 I knew different. I knew she was the late Mrs. Kurt
10 Landers - now probably married to Johnny Sloan....and
11 I was so right. (CHUCKLES) Mr. and Mrs. Ross Merrick.
12 nice, solid name you two took....(CHUCKLES)
13 ROSS: (QUIETLY, MENACING) It's a name you're not going to
14 destroy, Carter.
15 CARTER: (CHUCKLING STOPS) Oh - ? (COLD) That depends on :
16 you, Johnny, or maybe I should call you Ross.
17 ROSS: You made a mistake following us here like this, making
18 this blackmail pitch.
19 CARTER: Not as big a mistake as you made, killing Marion's
20 husband. Look I'm not going to ask too much, Johnny...
21 ROSS: How much?
22 CARTER: Oh, I don't know -- I - uh - had in mind becoming a
23 business associate ... help you run the newspapers....
24 ROSS: (STUNNED) Become an associate?! Don't make me laugh!
25 CARTER: (THREATENING) Easy, Johnny - the tail's wagging the
26 dog. Murderers are in no position to ---

1 ROSS: (COLD) You shouldn't have called me that, Carter!

2 SOUND: (SIMULTANEOUS) BLOW OF FIST

3 CARTER: (REACTS TO BLOW)

4 SOUND: (HE FALLS....STRIKING FURNITURE)

5 MUSIC: (KNIFE CHORDS IN, UNDER)

6 ROSS: Get up ! (PAUSE) I said get up!

7 WHISTLER: (PAUSE, THEN) You stop short, Ross, stare down at

8 Herb Carter.....he's lying very still, isn't he. You

9 know that he's dead, don't you, Ross.

10 MUSIC: (PUNCTUATES)

11 WHISTLER: You've killed again, haven't you.....first for

12 money....now for protection...but it's still the same..

13 ...you've killed a man and you've got to get rid of

14 him....get the silently accusing form at your feet

15 away, out of the house so that you won't be connected

16 with his death. Your mind begins to focus again, you

17 remember that your wife, Marian, won't be back from

18 the Country Club for several hours and you need her

19 help. You don't want to call her at the club....

20 decide that you must wait.

21 MUSIC: (ANTICIPATE TIME PASSAGE, TO FLARE OUT)

22 SOUND: (CLOCK STRIKE TWO)

23 WHISTLER: Finally at two o'clock you can stand the suspense no

24 longer. You reach for the phone, call the club.

25 SOUND: (ANTICIPATE DIALING...FILTERED RINGING...PHONE UP ON

26 OTHER END)

1' MAN: (FILTER) Glenview Country Club.
2 ROSS: Is - Mrs. Ross Merrick there?
3 MAN: Mrs. Merrick? One moment. (PAUSE) Mrs. Merrick
4 left about an hour ago, sir.
5 ROSS: ((An hour. All right - Oh, uh - did you notice who
6 she was with?
7 MAN: One moment. Mrs. Merrick left)) with the Wilson party,
8 sir.
9 ROSS: The Wilsons. Thanks.
10 SOUND: (PHONE UP....UP AND DIALLING AGAIN....FILTERED RING,
11 AS BEFORE...UP ON FAR END)
12 WILSON: (SLEEPILY) (FILTERED) Hullo....?
13 ROSS: Bob - this is Ross Merrick.
14 WILSON: Uh? Yeah, Ross...I - was asleep.
15 ROSS: Sorry. I've been trying to locate Marian.
16 WILSON: Isn't she home yet? She dropped Betty and me off...
17 went on with the Hartley's....(SPEAKS OFF) Uh? Just
18 a minute, Ross.... (PAUSE) Ross...
19 ROSS: Yes?
20 WILSON: Betty says Marian and the Hartleys were going on to
21 that Hamburger place down the Highway from you....
22 Probably still there, huh?
23 ROSS: (DOWN) Yeah...yeah, probably still there...Uh, thanks,
24 Bob.
25 WILSON: S'all right....Whyn't ya go on to sleep ... she'll be
26 okay..
27
28

1 ROSS: Uh -- yeah..good idea...I'll...go on to sleep.
2 SOUND: PHONE UP
3 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER):
4 WHISTLER: The panic within you builds with each passing minute,
5 doesn't it, Ross....and you continue to pace your
6 living room. Finally you hear Marian pull into the
7 driveway alongside the house. You hurry out to the
8 garage...quickly tell Marian what's happened....she's
9 very calm, as always....
10 MARIAN: (QUIETLY) All right. Is he still in the house?
11 ROSS: Of course! How did you expect me to -
12 MARIAN: We'll get him away - out into the country somewhere ...
13 ROSS: We've got to hurry. It'll be daylight soon.
14 MARIAN: I'll back the car up to the side entrance and -
15 ROSS: No, we can't bring him out this way. The light from
16 next door.
17 MARIAN: What? (SEES IT) Oh...yes Mrs. Kramer. She's
18 kept those flood lights on ever since that burglary a
19 week ago.
20 ROSS: Look, Marian, you back out, drive around the block and
21 come up the alley in back of the Benson's place. I'll
22 meet you there with Carter's body in five minutes.
23 MARIAN: Right. Be careful.
24 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER)

1 WHISTLER: Inside the house you pick up Carter's body, slip out
2 your front door, move cautiously in the darkness along
3 the hedge toward the Benson's house on the other side.
4 You can reach the alley that way, can't you, Ross....
5 and, then....

6 SOUND: (HIS FOOTSTEPS ON DRY LEAVES. THEY STOP SUDDENLY AS)

7 NEWSBOY: (SLIGHT OFF, HE'S WHISTLING A TUNE)

8 WHISTLER: (COLD) Someone is out there on the sidewalk, Ross....
9 where they can see you. You peer through an opening
10 in the hedge and in the light of the street lamp you
11 see a youngster sitting on the curb. It's Jimmy
12 Weller.....one of your newsboys. He's folding his
13 newspapers for the morning delivery, and you know
14 you've got to wait till he moves away. You stand there
15 in the darkness and as the minutes go by your arms .
16 begin to ache under the weight of Carter's body and
17 then finally.....

18 SOUND: (FOOTSTEPS ON SIDEWALK....DITTO WHISTLING....FADE)

19 The newsboy is gone now, Ross and you continue
20 along the hedge ... thankful for the pitch darkness....

21 SOUND: (ANTICIPATE APPROACHING CAR ... IT PULLS UP TO CURB)

22 You drop down quickly as a car pulls up near the
23 Benson's house

24 SOUND: (CAR DOORS OPEN)

25 CAST: (AD LIBS OFF...LAUGHTER, ETC.)

1 MR.BENSON: (OFF) Thanks for driving us home, Henry.
2 ROSS: (LOW, TENSE) The Bensons! They're back!
3 MUSIC: (HITS, THEN UNDER)
4 WHISTLER: The panic is with you again, isn't it, Ross....as you
5 crouch behind the hedge...Carter's body sprawled out
6 beside you. Marian is waiting with the car in the
7 nearby alley, but you can only reach it alongside the
8 Benson's house, and as the minutes go by, they're
9 still close by, chatting with their friends....
10 blocking your progress.
11 CAST: (AD LIBS OFF)
12 MRS.BENSON: (OFF) ... My, what a party! Emily, didn't you think
13 Christine's gown was stunning. I swear I've never
14 seen that woman in the same dress twice. (SIGHS) Well
15 I suppose we should go in. My goodness I didn't
16 realize it was so late
17 MR BENSON: (OFF...WEARILY) Come on, Dolly, you and Emily can
18 phone one another.
19 MRS.BENSON: (OFF) All right -- Night, folks!
20 SOUND: (CAR PULLS AWAY...FADE..FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, UNDER)
21 BENSON: (COMING ON) Am I glad that Club affair comes only
2 2 once a year ...
23 MRS.BENSON: (COMING ON) You enjoyed yourself, didn't you?
24 BENSON: Sure ... Sure ... But why do we have to stay out so
25 late?
26

1 MRS.BENSON: Oh don't be grumpy now. I -- Oh, dear.
2 BENSON: Now what?
3 SOUND: (FOOTSTEPS OUT)
4 MRS.BENSON: My compact. I dropped it
5 BENSON: Oh great. Where?
6 MRS.BENSON: I heard it hit the walk. I think it rolled along the
7 hedge.
8 BENSON: Leave it. We'll look for it in the morning.
9 MRS.BENSON: We'll do no such thing. Run up to the house, dear..
10 and turn on the porch light..
11 BENSON: Oh...all right.
12 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER)
13 WHISTLER: The moment that porch light is turned on you'll be
14 seen, won't you, Ross...and suddenly you make a
15 decision - the only one you can make. You put Carter's
16 body down, leave it there....hurry back to your house.
17 MUSIC: (SWEEP UP AND OUT)
18 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE...FOOTSTEPS IN
19 MARIAN: (COMING ON) What happened to you? I didn't dare wait
20 any longer...
21 ROSS: I couldn't reach the alley. The Bensons came home...
22 MARIAN: I know. I saw the light. But you had plenty of
23 time before that...what kept you?
24 ROSS: ((Jimmy Weller.
25 MARIAN: Jimmy Weller?))

1 ROSS: One of my delivery boys. He was out there folding his
2 papers...
3 MARIAN: At this time of the morning? I thought he didn't come
4 around until six-thirty....
5 ROSS: ((He .. used to..but..
6 MARIAN: But what?))
7 ROSS: Well, last week I moved the schedule up an hour. I
8 thought our subscribers would appreciate -
9 MARIAN: ((That was certainly a smart move!
10 ROSS: Okay! So it's all my fault! But how was I -))
11 MARIAN: Wait a minute - what did you do with Carter?
12 ROSS: (BEAT) He's out there.. on the Benson lawn.
13 MARIAN: ((What?
14 ROSS: I had to leave him there. Benson went into the house
15 to turn on the porch light...I'd have been seen.))
16 MARIAN: Oh, Ross!-
17 ROSS: Now look, Marian ... there's nothing to worry about.
18 No one's going to tie us up with Carter. ((We never
19 saw him before, understand?
20 MARIAN: All right but -
21 ROSS: And listen.)) I've an idea....I've been figuring it
22 out -- something to keep the police occupied... a
23 suspect.
24 MARIAN: What?

1 ROSS: Why not? If they're busy looking for a man they think
2 is the murderer they won't be asking too many questions.
3 You'll see, Marian...it'll work..it'll work just fine.
4 MUSIC: (BRIDGE)
5 SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G. A SIREN WAILS IN
6 CAST: EXCITED AD LIBS
7 SHERIFF: All right, folks, let the boys through ... let 'em
8 through. And please...if you'll all go back to your
9 homes - Oh, morning, Mr. Merrick.
10 ROSS: Morning, Sheriff...
11 SHERIFF: I suppose you'll be wanting the facts for you paper?
12 ROSS: Yes... but I think I can be of some help to you,
13 Sheriff.
14 SHERIFF: That so?
15 ROSS: ((I think I may have seen the murderer.
16 SHERIFF: What?))
17 ROSS: Last night .. or I should say early this morning, I
18 was in my study reading. ((As you can see the windows
19 overlook the lawn here...
20 SHERIFF: Go on.
21 ROSS: Well,)) I heard voices...((men's voices .. seemed to
22 be)) some sort of a heated discussion. I looked out
23 the window... saw two men standing - well, let me see -
24 about there on the sidewalk.
25 SHERIFF: What they look like?

1 ROSS: One of them was tall...broadshouldered. The other was
2 quite small...slender. He was facing the street light
3 ... I might be able to recognize him...
4 SHERIFF: Uh...will you step over this way, Mr. Merrick.
5 FOSS: Of course.
6 SOUND: FEW STEPS
7 SHERIFF: Lift the blanket off the body, will you Jess?
8 (PAUSE) Well, Mr. Merrick?
9 ROSS: (BEAT) I'm not positive, but I think that's him.
10 SHERIFF: ((Remember how the other man was dressed?
11 ROSS: Well, let me see. Dark trousers, I think... a jacket
12 of some sort .. no hat.))

1 SHERIFF: I see. Go on.
2 ROSS: Well, I went back to my reading and sometime later I
3 looked out again - saw the tall man get into a car.
4 It had been parked at the curb.
5 SHERIFF: What kind of a car?
6 ROSS: I didn't notice the make. It was a sedan, though...
7 dark...
8 SHERIFF: ((And the other man...?
9 ROSS: I didn't see him.))
10 SHERIFF: What time of morning was this, Mr. Merrick?
11 ROSS: Around two I think. Yes...I remember because I'd
12 looked at my watch frequently. You see my wife was at
13 the Country Club and I was expecting her..
14 SHERIFF: I see. Well, thanks a lot Mr. Merrick. We'll go to
15 work on this right away.
16 MUSIC: (BRIDGE)
17 SOUND: DOOR OPEN
18 MARIAN: (OFF) Darling, Sheriff Wade is here...
19 ROSS: Oh? Have him come in, Marian.
20 MARIAN: (OFF, ASIDE) Sheriff..
21 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS IN...DOOR CLOSE..FOOTSTEPS TO ROSS, UNDER
22 SHERIFF: Good evening, Mr. Merrick.
23 ROSS: Evening, Sheriff.
24 SHERIFF: You know my Deputy...Jess Anderson.
25 ROSS: Of course.

1 SHERIFF: ((Hope we're not disturbing you.
2 ROSS: No..no. Just puttering around at my desk. I'm always
3 bringing work home from the office.
4 MARIAN: You gentlemen care for some coffee?
5 SHERIFF: Thanks no, Mrs. Merrick. We just stopped by for a
6 minute.))
7 ROSS: How are you making out with that lead I gave you this
8 morning?
9 SHERIFF: We're working on it. Coroner's report fixed time of
10 death around two a.m. That fits in with what you saw
11 Mr. Merrick. Death was instantaneous. A blow on the
12 back of the head.
13 ROSS: I see. Uh...find out anything about the dead man?
14 SHERIFF: Not much. Came to town two days ago...registered at
15 the Dalton Hotel...said he was from San Francisco.
16 (BEAT) You got a good look at him this morning, Mr.
17 Merrick. Ever see him before?
18 ROSS: Why...no.
19 SHERIFF: Positive?
20 ROSS: Of course. Why?
21 SHERIFF: Well, I had a talk with the desk clerk at the Dalton.
22 He told me that Carter asked him how to get out here.
23 ROSS: (PAUSE) Here? You mean to my house?
24 SHERIFF: Uh huh. Apparently he was on his way here when he was
25 killed.
26

1 ROSS: I wonder why.
2 SHERIFF: (SIGHS) Hard to say. We'll probably never know..now.
3 SOUND: TELEPHONE
4 MARIAN: I'll get it, dear.
5 SOUND: HER FOOTSTEPS..RECEIVER UP.
6 SHERIFF: Well, I don't want to take up any more of your time,
7 Mr. Merrick. Just checking...that's all.
8 ROSS: Of course. You'll let me know if anything turns up?
9 SHERIFF: Sure will.
10 MARIAN: It's for you, Sheriff. Your office.
11 SHERIFF: Oh? Thanks, Mrs. Merrick.
12 SOUND: FEW STEPS
13 SHERIFF: (SLIGHT OFF) Hello. Yeah. (PAUSE) When? Uh huh.
14 Just a minute.
15 MARIAN: Want something, Sheriff..?
16 SHERIFF: Slip of paper if you have one..
17 MARIAN: Right there on the desk...the pad.
18 SHERIFF: Thanks. (BACK TO PHONE) Okay, Bill..let's
19 have it. Uh huh. San Francisco. Okay...I'll get
20 on it. I'll take the midnight train. Yeah.
21 SOUND: HANGS UP
22 SHERIFF: (COMING BACK ON) Well, how do you like that for a
23 break?
24 ROSS: What is it, Sheriff?
25 SHERIFF: Boys at headquarters just got a phone call from a woman
26 in San Francisco. Wouldn't give her name...just an
27 apartment number and an address.

1 ROSS: Oh?

2 SHERIFF: It's about the dead man..Carter. She said she could
3 tell us why Carter came to this town.

4 ROSS: (STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL) I..I see. Well, that
5 certainly is ..a break, isn't it.

6 SHERIFF: Yeah...might just put the finger on the man who killed
7 Carter.

8 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER)

9 WHISTLER: Your knees almost fold under you, don't they, Ross...
10 and you lean back...grip the edge of your desk until
11 the knuckles show white. You watch as the Sheriff
12 hands the slip of paper to his deputy...watch the
13 deputy copy the address down in a little black notebook
14 ...then he crumbles the slip of paper...throws it into
15 your waste basket. Then after the Sheriff and the
16 deputy have gone..

17 MARIAN: That woman, Ross...who could she be?

18 ROSS: A girl friend of Carter's probably...

19 MARIAN: What are we going to do?

20 ROSS: The only thing we can do. Stop her from talking.

21 MARIAN: But how will you know where to find her...?

22 ROSS: Thanks to the Sheriff's deputy - the answer lies right
23 here in the waste basket.

24 SOUND: FEW STEPS

25 ROSS: Yes...here we are, Apartment 301...Forrest Avenue.

26 SOUND: HIS STEPS AGAIN, HURRIED...

1 ROSS: (TENSE) Marian...I'll drive the car around. You phone
2 the depot...find out what time the Sheriff's train
3 gets into S.F. He's taking the midnight. With luck
4 I might get there before he does.

5 MUSIC: (IN AND UNDER)

6 WHISTLER: Ordinarily it's a two hour drive to San Francisco,
7 isn't it, Ross...but you make it in an hour and forty
8 five minutes...a full hour before the Sheriff's train
9 is due to arrive...and you hurry to the apartment on
10 Forrest Avenue.

11 SOUND: DOOR BUZZER...DOOR OPENS

12 WOMAN: Y-yes?

13 ROSS: How do you do. I'm Sheriff Wade...You called my office
14 earlier this evening.

15 WOMAN: Oh...yes. Yes. Come in.

16 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS IN...DOOR CLOSES

17 ROSS: Uh...you alone?

18 WOMAN: Quite alone. Sit down.

19 ROSS: Thanks, no. I won't be here very long.

20 WOMAN: Suit yourself but - (BREAKS OFF) Wait a minute..
21 what's the idea of the gun? Am I under arrest?

22 ROSS: No...you're not under arrest.

23 WOMAN: Okay...so you don't have to wave that gun around. I
24 said I'd talk...tell you everything I know.

25 ROSS: Sure...you'll tell everything you know...but you know
26 too much! (BEAT) Do you follow me, sister?

27 MUSIC: (CURTAIN)

1 /NNCR: Warning to drivers! Automobile accidents skyrocket
2 during rainy weather. So - if a worn windshield wiper
3 is blurring your vision - or - if your tires are
4 dangerously smooth and skiddy - don't put off doing
5 something about it. Better head for your nearest
6 Signal Station now! While you wait - your Signal
7 Dealer can install the famous patented "Clear Flex"
8 Rainmaster wiper blade. And he can replace your
9 slippery old tires with quick-stopping - skid
10 resistant new Lee Tires. Because the cold rubber in
11 nationally renowned Lee Tires is now toughened still
12 further with patented "Philblack-0" - today's Lee's
13 wear amazingly long. Yet the generous trade-in Signal
14 Dealers are giving for old tires - makes new Lee's
15 cost gratifyingly little. And liberal credit terms
16 are available. So - whatever your car needs for safer
17 winter driving; whether it's tires - battery - spark
18 plugs - light bulbs - fan belt or radiator hose -
19 remember: Your nearest headquarters for a complete
20 line of quality automotive accessories - is your
21 nearest Signal Service Station.

1 MUSIC: (THEME)

2 WHISTLER: It'll all be over soon, won't it, Ross...Yes...you've
3 only to pull the trigger now...silence the woman who
4 stands before you. You're certain she knows that Herb
5 Carter was murdered because he tried to blackmail you..
6 that you are the murderer. But she'll never be able to
7 tell the police that, will she....no....

8 WOMAN: You're ...Merrick...Ross Merrick, aren't you?

9 ROSS: That's right.

10 WOMAN: You killed Herb?!

11 ROSS: You're right again, sweetheart.

12 SHERIFF: (SLIGHT OFF) That's all we wanted to hear, Merrick!

13 ROSS: (WHIRLS) Uh -? Sheriff Wade?!

14 SHERIFF: (SLIGHT OFF) Drop it! Drop the gun!

15 SOUND: GUN DROPS TO FLOOR...SHERIFF'S FOOTSTEPS IN

16 SHERIFF: Surprised to see me? (SMILES) No, I didn't wait to
17 take the midnight...we flew in ahead of you, Ross.

18 ROSS: All this.. It was all a trap --?

19 SHERIFF: Uh-huh -- This young lady happens to be a policewoman,
20 Merrick. That phone call to your house..the slip of
21 paper in the waste basket...Yeah - a trap - we set it
22 up and you walked right into it.

23 ROSS: But I don't understand...how could you have guessed -

24 SHERIFF: I figured you lied about what happened outside your
25 window last night...
26

1 ROSS: What made you think that?
2 SHERIFF: Your own newspaper tripped you up, Merrick.
3 ROSS: My...newspaper?
4 SHERIFF: Carter was killed at two o'clock all right...but I
5 knew it didn't happen out there on the Benson's front
6 lawn. He was killed somewhere else and the body was
7 dumped there behind the hedge several hours later...
8 sometime after five thirty.
9 ROSS: How...how could you know that?
10 SHERIFF: When we arrived at the scene, we found the morning
11 edition of your newspaper neatly folded under Carter's
12 body. That meant the body had been placed there after
13 the newsboy had delivered the paper. Had the body
14 been there since two o'clock as you tried to make us
15 believe, the newspaper, when thrown by the delivery
16 boy -- would have landed on top of the body. Right,
17 Mr. Merrick -?
18 MUSIC: (TYMPS)

ANNCR:

Let that whistle be your signal - for the Signal Oil
program - The Whistler - each Sunday night at this same
time. (PAUSE) To men over seventeen - the National
Guard suggests you find out how you can meet your
military obligations this pleasant way. Train with
your hometown buddies - learn new skills - and enjoy
sports - while you live at home and get a
day's regular pay for each two-hour drill period.
For more information - inquire at nearest National
Guard headquarters.

1 ANNCR:

2 Featured in tonight's story were Bill Forman as The
3 Whistler, Joseph Kearns, Alice Reinheart, Elizabeth
4 Root, Jay Novello and Bill Bouchey.

5 The Whistler was produced and directed by George W.
6 Allen with story by Steve Hampton...Music by Wilbur
7 Hatch...and was transmitted overseas by the Armed
8 Forces Radio Service. The Whistler is entirely
9 fictional and all characters portrayed on
10 The Whistler are also fictional. Any similarity
11 of names or resemblances to persons living or dead,
12 is purely coincidental.

13 (PAUSE)

14 Remember to tune in at this same time next Sunday
15 when the Signal Oil Company will bring you another
16 strange story by The Whistler.

17
18
19 Marvin Miller speaking for the Signal Oil Company.
20 Stay tuned now for "OUR MISS BROOKS" starring Eve
21 Arden, which follows immediately over most of these
22 stations.

23 This is the CBS....RADIO...NETWORK.